

does one never see or get reports of birds retiring to their sleeping roosts on such monsoon mid-days?

However, the alleged reactions of birds to solar eclipse are certainly worthy of a more scientific and critical investigation.—EDS.]

### 19. A BLIND SNAKE FROM NEPAL

We recently received from Shri B. L. Karmacharya a Blind Snake collected in Nepal by Shri Bandhu Pant which we were unable to identify satisfactorily.

Its lepidosis, as compared with *Typhlops jerdoni* Boulenger and *T. tenuicollis* (Peters) was as under:

	Scale round midbody.	Transverse rows of scales	Eyes distinct or indistinct	Nasal
Present specimen ...	22	360	Indistinct	Completely divided
<i>jerdoni</i> ...	22	260-280	Distinct	do.
<i>tenuicollis</i> ...	22	480-520	Indistinct	Incompletely divided.

In the absence of any material for comparison it was sent to the British Museum (N.H.) whence Mr. J. C. Battersby of the Reptile Section writes: 'I have examined the *Typhlops* No. 172S from Nepal and agree with you that the nasal is completely divided. Another point against it being *tenuicollis* is that the diameter of the body is about 38 and not 65 times in the total length. Although the number of transverse rows of scales given by you differs from the number given for the species in Smith's F.B.I., I think it is an example of *jerdoni* Boulenger. I have compared it with the paratypes with which it quite well agrees, also with some specimens we have from Darjeeling, which have about 298 scale-rows. The fact of the eye not showing is due, I think, to this specimen being about to slough. The number of scale-rows I imagine can be widely variable, although (the difference of) 80 in this case is well above the given range.'

It would be interesting to examine more specimens from the same area and determine if this increase in scale-rows is an individual variation or common to the population in this area. Nepal is further west of the recorded range which, according to Malcolm Smith's snake volume in the Fauna, p. 50, is Eastern Himalayas (Sikkim, Darjeeling, Duars Dts.), Assam (Abor and Khasi Hills), Upper Burma (Lashio), Pegu.

NATURAL HISTORY SECTION,  
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V. K. CHARI